

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00115 190620Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SS-15 NSC-05 /040 W
-----052679 190625Z /14

R 181145Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 7161
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0115

USIAC

DEPT FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK EDITION CENSORED IN RSA

JANUARY 16 INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF "NEWSWEEK" MAGAZINE FOR SALE ON NEWSSTANDS THROUGHOUT RSA HAS ONE ENTIRE PAGE (15-16) TORN OUT. ARTICLE IN QUESTION IS INTERVIEW WITH EAST LONDON EDITOR WHO FLED RSA, DONALD WOODS, WHICH GRANTED DURING HIS STOPOVER IN BOTSWANA ENROUTE TO EUROPE. ARTICLE QUOTES WOODS DIRECTLY. FOR THIS REASON, CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (CNA) DECIDED IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO SOUTH AFRICAN LAW TO DISTRIBUTE MAGAZINE INTACT. DIRECTORS OF CNA DETERMINED BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO EXCISE ENTIRE PAGE RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO BLACKEN OUT OFFENDING PASSAGES.

ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF CNA APPROXIMATELY 5,000 COPIES OF NEWSWEEK ARE SOLD WEEKLY, DIVIDED ALMOST EQUALLY BETWEEN SUBSCRIPTIONS AND NEWSSTAND COPIES. ONLY THOSE COPIES SOLD ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00115 190620Z

NEWSSTANDS WERE CENSORED BECAUSE THE SUBSCRIPTION COPIES ARE MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL ADDRESSEES. IN THIS CASE NEWSSTAND COPIES WERE DELIVERED TO DEPOTS IN CAPE TOWN, DURBAN, PORT ELIZABETH AND JOHANNESBURG. INDIVIDUAL DEPOT MANAGERS ARRANGED FOR OFFENDING PAGE TO BE RIPPED OUT OF EACH COPY TO BE SOLD.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS CENSORSHIP ACTION WAS UNPRECEDENTED, SPOKESMAN FOR CNA, CAPE TOWN MARKETING MANAGER RICHARD POOLER EXPLAINED THAT CNA DISTRIBUTES SCORES OF THOUSANDS OF MAGAZINES MONTHLY AND MUST EXERCISE EXTREME CARE AND MEASURED JUDGEMENT ABOUT WHAT MIGHT OFFEND AUTHORITIES. "SOMETIMES IT'S A MATTER OF BLACKENING OUT A NIPPLE.....IT COMES DOWN TO WHETHER A NIPPLE'S NAUGHTY OR NOT," HE EXCLAIMED.

CAPE TOWN-BASED NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT PETER YOUNGHUSBAND SAID MAGAZINE HEADQUARTERS MADE DECISION TO PRINT STORY DESPITE KNOWLEDGE ARTICLE MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN RSA. YOUNGHUSBAND POINTED OUT CONSIDERATIONS IN RSA ARE PRETTY SMALL POTATOES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE WHICH IS DISTRIBUTED WORLD-WIDE.
HUGHES

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CENSORSHIP
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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